

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-02 ACDA-05 /072 W

----- 042678

R 250852Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2652

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 5355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR VN RP

SUBJECT: GOP CONCERN OVER NVN INCURSION INTO SPRATLY AREA

REF: MANILA 5250 B. MANILA 4777

1. IN COURSE PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS MORNING APRIL 25, HE INFORMED ME OF HIS CONCERN ABOUT NORTH VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS IN SPRATLYS. HE SAID THERE WERE INDICATIONS HANOI INTENDS TO TAKE OVER ENTIRE ISLAND CHAIN.

2. I GAVE AS MY PERSONAL OPINION VIEW THAT HANOI WAS MOVING RAPIDLY TO PRE-EMPT PEKING SEIZURE OF SPRATLYS IN MANNER IT HAD SEIZED PARACELS. I THOUGHT, THEREFORE, THAT FIRST PRIORITY HANOI ACTION WOULD BE TO TAKE OVER ISLANDS CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY SAIGON. I (SPECULATED) WHETHER, AT THIS STAGE, HANOI WISHED TO PICK FURTHER FIGHTS WITH GOP AND GRC.

3. MARCOS ASKED WHETHER I THOUGHT SOVIETS HAD INFLUENCED HANOI TO ACT IN PRE-EMPTION OF PRC. I SAID I DOUBTED

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HANOI NEEDED ANY EXTERNAL INSPIRATION AND SPOKE A BIT

ABOUT THE EXHIBITS IN HANOI MUSEUMS ABOUT EARLIER WARS
BETWEEN VIET-NAM AND CHINA.

4. MARCOS THEN TURNED TO GOP PROBLEM IF THEIR ISLAND
GARRISONS ARE ATTACKED. ALTHOUGH NEITHER OF US MENTIONED
US-RP DEFENSE TREATY, I POINTED OUT THE COMPLICATIONS
INHERENT IN GOP DISPOSITION, BECAUSE ISLANDS ARE
ISLANDS IN CONTENTION, AND U.S. DID NOT ACCEPT AS
DEFINITIVE THE PHILIPPINE CLAIM TO THESE ISLANDS. MARCOS
AGREED SITUATION WAS NEBULOUS AND LET MATTER DROP THERE.

5. WHEN MAY I EXPECT GUIDANCE REQUESTED REF B?
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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